



Inside Ag

November 2009

Bug of the Month **Tetrastichus Incertus**



Tetrastichus incertus is a tiny parasitic wasp that attacks alfalfa weevil larvae by laying eggs within the larva which hatch and destroy the larva from the inside (see photo). Alfalfa weevil has been a problem in most of the alfalfa producing areas of Colorado since the early 1900's. The damage to the hay crop from alfalfa weevil feeding occurs in May and June, affecting only the first cutting of hay. Introducing the parasites into fields can help moderate weevil populations and may prevent major outbreaks in the future.

Tetrastichus incertus was introduced from France to the US in 1960 and the Insectary received the wasp in June of 1988. Many releases of the parasite have been accomplished over the years with a 70% establishment rate overall.